PATENT 9467 BALIN-56314

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS:

Examiner: M. Meky

Michael E. Tompkins, et al.

Art Unit: 2757

CONTINUATION OF SERIAL NO.:

08/822,179

Express Mail Label No. EL590183161US

FILED: March 20, 1997

TITLE: SPA CONTROL SYSTEM

DATE: January 16, 2001

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The captioned application is a continuation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of U.S. Serial No.

08/822,179, filed March 20, 1997. Before action, please amend the captioned application as

follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 1, line 2, after "This application is a continuation of", please insert -- U.S. Patent

Application Serial No. 08/822,179 filed March 20, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent

Application No. 08/703,177 filed August 23, 1996, which is a continuation of ...--